

## PERCENT OF LIVE BIRTHS WITH LOW BIRTHWEIGHT BY COUNTY AND RACE

### Objective

By 1990, no county and no racial or ethnic group of the population (e.g., Black, Hispanic, American Indian) should have a rate of low birthweight infants that exceeds nine percent of all live births.

### Explanatory Notes

Low birthweight infants are those weighing 2500 grams (five pounds, eight ounces) or less at birth. More stable results are obtained by using rates for the five-year period 1986-90. For purposes of this report, low birthweight rates are calculated for whites and nonwhites.

### Findings

During 1986-90, nineteen of the state's 100 counties experienced low birthweight rates above nine percent (page 27). Ten of the 19 counties had rates under 10 percent, however. For the state, the percentages ranged from 4.6 in Mitchell County to 11.9 in Warren County.

As shown on page 27, the low birthweight percentage for North Carolina whites fluctuated only slightly during the eighties. The nonwhite percentage increased toward the end of the 1980s and was 38 percent above the national target in 1990. Trends for the nation mirror those for North Carolina.

### Related National Objectives for the Year 2000

- o Reduce low birth weight among blacks to an incidence of no more than nine percent of live births and very low weight births to no more than two percent of live births.

### Data Sources

North Carolina: State Center for Health and Environmental Statistics  
United States: National Center for Health Statistics

### COUNTIES WITH PERCENT LOW BIRTH WEIGHT GREATER THAN NINE

